

# March 2023 COVID-19 Chronicle

Maxime Coles MD

- A- Through its phase of “Long Covid” following post-acute sequelae of SARS CoV-2, millions of people are affected around the world. I am still having patients scheduled for surgical procedures who were found with a positive COVID-19 test. Last week was my last patient, cancelled for being positive. Trying to prevent Long Covid becomes an urgent public health priority. A new treatment with “Nirmatrelvir” is preconized in the treatment of the acute phase allowing perhaps to reduce the risk of such post-acute sequelae. It was found that being unvaccinated and taking such medication will allow the organism to fight better. It was also effective for people vaccinated or other who have also received boosters or people who have been already victims of COVID-19.
- B- An international team of experts announced that they have found genetic data from a place at the Wuhan market, in China linking the coronavirus to a racoon dog for sale but not a pangolin, adding evidence to the case of the worst pandemic in a century could have been ignited by this infected animal that was the subject of an illegal wild life trade. This article was published by the New-York Times, this week.

## The world of Medicine in Haiti

Maxime Coles MD

- A- The state University Medical schools of Haiti (UEH) has received material to improve the teaching of the Anatomy and in order to replace the cadavers, a set of mannequins was donated to each of the university. The campus of Limonade and the campus of Port-au-Princes, have

- received this week the material and soon will be able to integrate it to their anatomy classes. Letters of for the deans are presented in our newsletter. This is an effort of the AMHE, the AMHE Foundation and their members to collect 16.000 dollars to buy the mannequins. We wish the teachers in the improvement of the Anatomy classes.
- B- On a sad note the ECFMG has established their list of schools able to be recognized in order to allow our graduate physician to continue their specialization in the United States. Unfortunately, none of our Haitian Universities national or private figure on the chosen schools. There has been an effort of all the deans in Haiti to work with France, Canada and the United States to improve the curriculum as part of the sine-qua-none condition to figure on the list of recognized Universities by the ECFMG able to participate in different programs in the United States. The effort appears to be on-going but not definitive. We wish luck to our deans in the finalization of such project.
- C- The Matching Program for Residents was announced this month and of 56 available positions in the United States, 42 of them were given to American Medical Graduates, 14 positions were allotted to foreign Medical Graduates. Only 7 of them were allotted to graduates from the Caribbean recognized medical schools. Our neighbors in Santo Domingo were allotted 3 spots. Unfortunately, none were given to a candidate belonging to the Alma Mater or any other Medical Schools in Haiti. I hope we should be able in a brief delay to fix that curriculum as requested by the ECFMG governing body. An application fee of 60,000 for each medical schools willing to participate in the program, is mandatory.
- D- Lettres de remerciements des doyens des Facultés de Medecine (Universités d'Etat D'Haiti)